VENEZUELA'S TROUBLE.

ENGLAND'S APPROPRIATION OF CERTAIN DISPUTED TERRITORY.

Map of the Region in Contention—Venezuela's Gold Mines—Resources of the Country—Something About the Pretty Women Who Live There.

HERE is serious trouble between Venezuela and Great Britain, which interests the United States not a little, for the Washington government a few years ago concluded a very advantageous treaty with Guzman Blanco, and trade and travel between the two have increased rapidly with an advance of friendly relations. Indeed the line of steamers direct from New York city to Loguayra is now the most important owned by Americans, and includes the best part of the ocean steamers that still fly the stars and stripes. This line is a sort of pet with Americans, who feel sore over the decline of their ocean shipping; and in the seaport cities there is a strong desire to "cultivate" Venezuela.

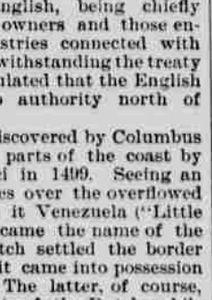
By glancing at the map the reader will see that Venezuela occupies nearly all the north coast proper of South America, and that Guiana begins about where the coast turns to the southeast. Of the three powers which divide Guiana the British, of course, own the most; and ever since they acquired the rights of the Dutch to the border strip, they have claimed that their territory rightfully extended further northwest. The longer the dispute went unsettled, the more Great Britain claimed, and on two occasions a border war was imminent. At length, however, the renowned Guzman Blanco brought the government of Venezuela to an orderly and vigorous condition, and insisted on a settlement. He went to London and obtained from Lord Granville an agreement to arbitrate, and came to the United States to further advance his country's interests. But Lord Granville's successor, Lord Salisbury, declined to go on with the former's agreement, and in March, 1887, the two powers were again at swords' points. Three British men of war took position in the harbor of Puerto-Cabello, the seaport of Caracas, the British minister went aboard one of

MAP OF DISPUTED REGION.

them and diplomatic intercourse was suspended. Venezuela had, in the meantime, seized two English vessels and their crews for alleged trespass. These matters were temporarily arranged, and now Great Britain has attempted to settle the boundary question by taking possession of the whole east section of Venezuela, up to the Orinoco north and the gold mountains west. In the latter region most of the settlers are English, being chiefly miners and mine owners and those engaged in the industries connected with mining. This, notwithstanding the treaty of 1850, which stipulated that the English should exercise no authority north of Palmar.

Venezuela was discovered by Columbus in 1498, and other parts of the coast by Ojeda and Vespucci in 1499. Seeing an Indian town on piles over the overflowed lands, they named it Venezuela ("Little Venice") which became the name of the country. The Dutch settled the border strip, but in 1803 it came into possession of the English. The latter, of course, take only the rights of the Dutch, while Venezuela can take only such rights as Spain had before the revolution. The treaty of 1850 stipulated that there should be "no advance beyond the existing line of British colonization," but the Venezuelans now insist that while negotiations were in progress the Guiana people slyly filled the region with colonists, and then claimed a line far northwest of what the Venezuelans intended to concede. Even this is now exceeded, as the British are claiming rights on the Orinoco. And this is no doubt the kernel of the whole matter, as that river is fast rising in importance. It is, in fact, one of the great rivers of the world, and with the late rich gold discoveries at Zuruari and development of the fertile lands, the Orinoco bids fair to soon be a great artery of commerce.

Venezuela (in the uplands) is the Circassia of the American continent—a region of high valleys and most healthful airs, where the human form naturally attains physical perfection. Travelers agree that no city in the world excels Caracas for beautiful, stately and graceful women, and through all the high valleys of the republic nature appears to be lavish in her favors to the fair sex. In climate and general productions these valleys are much like those California valleys opening westward from the Sierra Nevada—varying from Sonora, where figs and lemons ripen, to Yreka, where snow and ice are the rule in winter, but all peculiarly healthful and favorable to female beauty. The area of the republic is about 445,000 square miles, and the population does not exceed 2,500,000, but the foreign trade has increased very rapidly of late, especially with the United States; indeed, the finance officers claim that it has quadrupled since 1875. The exports are near $25,000,000 a year, and greatly exceed the imports. There are about 125 miles of railroad in operation and some 300 in course of construction, 1,200 miles of telegraph and a very complete and efficient postal system. Since the country settled its domestic troubles, many Americans have located there, and their testimony is enthusiastic that no other new and developing country presents such fine openings for enterprising young Yankees.



A VENEZUELAN BEAUTY.

The Spaniards founded many towns in Venezuela between 1520 and 1580, then came the long palsy which afflicted all Spanish colonies till the invasion of Spain by Napoleon started the revolutions of 1810–30, which left to the mother country no possessions on the continent. The last Spanish authority in Venezuela ceased in 1823, and a republic was established. From 1846 to 1869 there was almost continuous civil war, which ended in the ascendancy of Antonio Guzman Blanco. He prevailed on the congress to grant him almost dictatorial powers for a few years, which he employed with great wisdom and astonishing success. No other ruler of recent times has reformed so radically or so successfully; he has regenerated Venezuela, and is popularly called the "Regenerator," "Pacificator," etc. Life and property are secure; many valuable public works are completed, and others in process of construction. The railroad which rises some 3,000 feet in six miles (the road's windings are longer), from the seaport to the valley-plateau of Caraccas, is his work. The republic was restored in its integrity, after the dictatorship; but Blanco is still the ruler. He can hold the presidency but one term at a time, but in the intermediate terms the president is practically Blanco's clerk. Gen. Crespo, the recent occupant of the presidency, was a good natured and lazy mulatto, of tall stature and very fine appearance, who made an excellent figurehead on public occasions, like Queen Victoria, the real government in each country being in the hands of the man at the head of the commons. Take it all in all, it's a pity that Venezuela cannot have peace; and if she fights England, the case will be one of intense interest and some peculiar complications for the United States.

GUZMAN BLANCO.

The cut at the head of this article gives a view of Caracas, the capital of the country.

FARRAGUT'S FLAGSHIP.

The Old Hartford to Be Placed in Good Repair Again.

The old Hartford, Admiral Farragut's flagship, is to be repaired. It was feared for a time that the historic vessel would take her place in the rotten row beside other hulks which have fired their last shots, and laid up (like old pensioners in a soldier's home) at the Portsmouth navy yard, or some other naval station where ships are born and buried.

It was reported that the amount required to repair the vessel would be in excess of 20 per cent. of the original cost, the limit fixed by congress for determining the question of repairing an old vessel. But the secretary of the navy, in view of the associations which have gathered about the old ship, recommended to congress that a sufficient amount be appropriated to repair her.

On the 3d of February, 1862, Admiral Farragut sailed in the Hartford from Hampton roads to assume the duties of flag officer of the western gulf blockading squadron, and for the purpose of accomplishing the work of reducing the works leading to New Orleans and the capture of that city. The history of the night when Farragut passed the forts which defended the approach to New Orleans will always throw a halo around the old Hartford. Farragut, stationed in the rigging, directed the movement in sight of the belching forts, the efforts of Confederate rams, the fire rafts and the conflict between the naval craft of either side, the Hartford silencing Fort St. Phillip with its own guns. By morning it was seen that the forts—St. Phillip and Jackson—were passed, and the city of New Orleans lay at the mercy of the Yankee fleet.

THE HARTFORD.

From New Orleans the admiral was ordered to Mobile, where the Confederates were beginning to concentrate a navy. On the 4th of August, 1864, the Brooklyn leading with an ingenious arrangement for picking up torpedoes, the fleet made an attack. The Hartford, with the Brooklyn, received a heavy fire from the forts. The Tecumseh struck a torpedo and sunk, with her commander and nearly all her crew. Farragut dashed ahead with the Hartford, taking the risk of torpedos, and was followed by the other ships. The ram Tennessee made a dash at the flagship, and the Confederate gunboats Morgan, Gaines and Selma kept up a raking fire on her. All this did not prevent her passing the forts with the rest of the fleet. As the vessels were about to come to anchor the ram Tennessee was seen heading for the Hartford. The fleet was ready for her, and the Monongahela struck her, carrying away her prow. The Hartford also struck her, but sidewise, and put in a broadside. The Hartford soon after came in collision with the Lackawanna, losing her mizzenmast, and was cut to within two feet of the water. Nevertheless she again pushed for the ram, and the Manhattan coming up poured solid shot from her big turret guns into the Confederate vessel, which soon struck its colors.

On the following day the Confederate force on shore surrendered, the terms being signed on board the Hartford. Since then the historic vessel has been in sea service at intervals. She is now laid up in Mare Island navy yard.

The wilds of Africa have furnished a new poison called strophantus.

ENTRE-ACTE REVERIES.

I.

Between the acts, while the orchestra played
That sweet old waltz with the lilting measure,
I drifted away to a dear dead day,
When the dance for me was the sun of all pleasure.
When my veins were rife with the fever of life,
When hope ran high as an unswept ocean,
And my heart's great gladness was almost madness,
As I floated off to the music's motion.

II.

How little I cared for the world outside,
How little I cared for the dull day after.
The thought of trouble went up like a bubble,
And burst in a sparkle of mirthful laughter.
Oh! and the beat of it, oh, and the sweet of it,
Melody, motion and young blood melted.
The dancers swayed, the players played,
The air song deluged and music pelted.

III.

I knew no weariness, no, not I;
My step was as light as the waving grasses
That flutter with ease on the strong armed breeze
As it waltzes over the wild morasses.
Life was all sound and swing, youth was a perfect thing,
Night was the goddess of satisfaction.
Oh! how I tripped away, down to the edge of day!
Joy lay in motion and rest in action.

IV.

I dance no more on the music's wave,
I yield no more to its bewildering power.
That time has flown like a rose that is blown.
Yet life is a garden forever in flower.
Though storms of tears have watered the years
Between to-day and that day departed,
Though trials have met me and grief's waves wet me,
And I have been tired and trouble hearted.

V.

Though under the sod of a wee green grave
A great sweet hope in darkness perished,
Yet life, to my thinking, is a cup worth drinking,
A gift to be glad of, and loved and cherished.
There is deeper pleasure in the slower measure
That Time's grand orchestra now is giving.
Its mellowed minor is sadder but finer,
And life grows daily more worth the living.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Gods of the Esquimaux.

The Esquimaux pantheon is pretty well occupied, there being gods to preside over the different natural phenomena, such as the rain, snow, ice, tides and so forth, and others controlling human destiny in the chase, at home and elsewhere. Their explanation of the tides is very naive. The genius of the waters, it seems, wishing to cross the straits dryshod, caused the water that filled them to heap itself up at one side, and then, when he had passed over, to fall back into its place again, which it did with such momentum as to go on oscillating to and fro ever since. They have no lack of priests, and under their direction make various offerings to propitiate the deities, particularly when the season is bad, and seals are scarce.—J. Macdonald Oxley in American Magazine.

Chinese Shoes and Shoemaking.

Shoemaking, shoe mending and shoe selling are distinct branches of business in China. Chinese shoes exhibit great variety of shape. Except in the hob nailed shoe for wet weather, there is little leather used—the materials being principally calico, silk, satin, velvet and felt. Children's summer shoes are made of fine open rush work, with bright lining. Ladies' shoes are made and mended by their wearers. From childhood the girls of the upper classes have their feet tightly bound, and they are thus, at the cost of years of suffering, enabled to wear shoes about three inches long. The Chinese cobbler goes from house to house, and announces his presence with a peculiar rattle.—Philadelphia Times.

Something About "Zante Currants."

The word currant is said to be a corruption of Corinth, a city from which once came all the Greek currants. The currants, commonly called zante, are really raisins, produced from a grape that grows no larger than peas, like the American wild or fox grapes, and hangs in bunches only three inches long. These grapes are dried in the sun, and then stored in bulk, where the sugar that exudes from them makes them into masses so compact that they have to be dug apart by force when wanted. They are prepared for shipment by being put into casks and packed into a solid mass by being trodden by the feet of the natives.—New York Sun.

Duration of Infection Stages.

The duration of the infection stages of various diseases is thus given by Dr. T. F. Pearse, an English physician. Measles from the second day of the disease, for three weeks; smallpox from the first day, for four weeks; scarlet fever from the fourth day, for seven weeks; mumps from the second day, for three weeks; diphtheria from the first day, for three weeks. The incubation periods, or intervals occurring between exposure to infection and the first symptoms, are as follows: Whooping cough, fourteen days; mumps, eighteen days; measles, ten days; smallpox, twelve days; scarlet fever, three days; diphtheria, fourteen days.—Herald of Health.

Made Her Feel at Home.

A lady from Nebraska was the guest of a Pittsburg family. As the thermometer only touched zero once during the winter the fair stranger would have been homesick but for the thoughtfulness of her host. By an ingenious arrangement a powerful fan drove snow dust in her face every time she opened the front door. The snow was banked against the windows of her room and her meals let down the chimney with a string. Another device imitated the roar of a blizzard, and so soothed her to gentle slumber—wherein she dreamed of her native state. These little attentions deeply touched the fair guest.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

Florida's Opium Industry.

Florida promises to become a large producer of opium. The poppy grows there very readily, and larger than anywhere else in the United States. Sixteen plants will produce an ounce of opium, and an acre should give a profit of $1,000. As the plants will thrive among trees, the land on which are young and non-bearing orange orchards can be utilized while the trees are reaching maturity.—New York Sun.

Consumption of Tobacco.

M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu gives figures showing the quantity of tobacco consumed in the different countries of Europe. The rate per 100 inhabitants is, according to him, as follows: Spain, 110 pounds; Italy, 128 pounds; Great Britain, 138 pounds; Russia, 182 pounds; Denmark, 224 pounds; Norway, 229 pounds; Austria, 273 pounds.—Chicago News.

THE WHIRLING TORNADO.

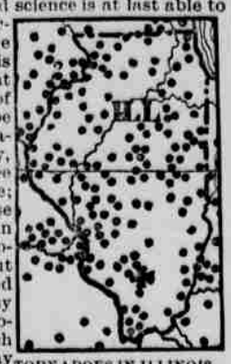
ITS SEASON OPENED UNUSUALLY EARLY THIS YEAR.

Map Showing the Location of the Terrible Storm at Mount Vernon, Ills., and of All the Reported Tornadoes in Illinois for the Past 100 Years and More.

The tornado season has opened early this year.

The beautiful city of Mount Vernon, Ills., is struck, with but a few minutes' warning; half the houses are instantly reduced to fragments, two scores of persons are killed and three times as many injured. Fire follows the tornado and completes the ruin. Over 500 dwellings are destroyed and the suffering is great.

Once more despairing humanity asks if there is no way of discovering the law which governs these destructive phenomena; no way of providing against such loss of life? And science is at last able to answer with certainty in the affirmative. It is now proved that the appearance of a tornado may be foretold with reasonable certainty, from one to three hours in advance; that its course may be noted in time for most observers to get out of its track, and that there are easy methods of protection by which the danger may be reduced to a minimum. A few general facts are of great interest.



TORNADOES IN ILLINOIS. [Location of Mount Vernon shown by cross.]

In the first place it is clearly demonstrated that tornadoes are not increasing either in number or destructive force; they have certainly prevailed for 100 years past in the United States, and will as certainly for a 100 years to come.

Secondly, the reason is found in the fact that all the central section, from the Alleghanies to the Rocky mountains, is a basin plain, unbroken by cross ranges of mountains, and with no hills which rise to the middle region of the atmosphere. Hence the territory of the United States west of the Alleghanies will always be the land of the tornado, its force increasing from east to west till one reaches the Missouri valley, and from both ends toward the west center—about latitude 40 degs. These facts would lead us to conclude, and observation proves it, that there are certain belts where the tornado is very rare, and others where it is of appalling frequency. The records for 125 years prove the following:

West Virginia is the one state where the tornado, strictly speaking, is unknown, and next to it in exemption is Virginia proper. Southward and slightly westward from the latter there is an increasing liability till one reaches that part of Georgia and Alabama south of the westward trend of the Alleghanies, and there is a storm belt at least 100 miles in width from north to south. From West Virginia northward there is a rapid increase of liability till one passes central Ohio; westward from the Big Miami the liability again decreases, and there is a region in the Wabash valley, from Vincennes to Lafayette, where there is almost complete exemption—at any rate tornadoes are rare. Westward from that region the liability increases rapidly and steadily to the junction of the Nemaha and Missouri, and there is, beyond comparison, the tornado center of the United States. Take the junction of these two rivers as a center and lay off concentric circles, with radii of 100, 200 and 300 miles, and you will very nearly outline the areas of greatest successively decreasing frequency.

The reasons are very plainly stated in the latest publication of the signal service bureau; but they are too numerous to recite here. The point of interest to the dweller in the tornado belt is to determine the phenomena which immediately precede the tornado, and the proper course of action when it is imminent. The following facts, therefore, deduced from observation of over 500 tornadoes, are of "vital interest."

1. Seven-eighths of all destructive tornadoes come between 1 and 5 p. m. A tornado never originates after sundown; they sometimes, but rarely, strike in the night, but always as a continuation of the previous day's course.

2. Nine-tenths of the worst ones come from the west; in certain sections (which the department now has mapped) nearly all come from south of west, and in others a majority come from north of west. Therefore, if the narrow black "trunk cloud," which always shows the tornado, be seen in time, run to the northwest or southeast—never toward the east or northeast. If you retreat to the cellar, always crouch in the southwest corner or under the west wall, for in nine cases out of ten the house goes off to the east or northeast.

TORNADO CLOUD AT GRINNELL, IA.

3. Five times out of six the tornado is preceded by a peculiar condition of the atmosphere, which gives warning to the observant. The heat is strangely oppressive; the sun's rays appear to have a prostrating power unnoticed at other times, and finally, but a few minutes before the stroke, short puffs of hot wind strike the face, as if one were near a furnace mouth when the wind is shifting. If the observer of these signs then sees in a westerly direction a column of peculiar black cloud, at the top of which there is a movement like the boiling of muddy water, he may consider a tornado as a certainty and prepare accordingly.

4. If in the open field, the safest of all places is a ditch; next to that the lee of a large rock or low stump which is firmly rooted. Avoid fences of all kinds, sheds or trees—anything, in short, which rises in the air. In all cases lie flat, in an east and west direction, and, if possible, take firm hold of a large stone or tough root.

5. In the house all doors and windows should be closed on the approach of a wind storm of any kind. The west side of the house is the safest; but the cellar is safer still, and any depression out doors (west of the house) safest of all. The foregoing are but a few of the precautions already taught by painful experience; but in many parts of the country the "storm pit" is already an established institution. In north central Georgia the traveler may now see on the hillsides many of these dug and roofed by the people since the great tornado of 1884.

While, as aforesaid, tornadoes were just as frequent in the west before its settlement as now, yet there are periods when they increase in frequency, and the three years of 1882, 1883 and 1884 appear to have been an era of maximum intensity. We present engravings showing the appearance of a western tornado cloud and its destructive effects at Grinnell, Ia. In 1884 a tornado of extraordinary width—they are nearly always narrow, often but a few rods wide—originated in Alabama and swept eastward and northward some 400 miles, creating havoc over a belt some twenty miles wide near the Etowah river, in Georgia. One astonishing fact is well attested; a heavy wooden sign, wrenched from its fastenings in an Alabama town, lodged in a tree in north central Georgia. Of course it had passed the whole distance above the tree tops, as otherwise it would have been reduced to splinters. In two or three instances the end of a "tornado trunk" struck the river, and fishes were taken into the air and carried long distances. In one instance some of them fell in the streets of Norfolk, Va.

During June and July, 1883, there was a constant succession of minor tornadoes in what we have named the tornado center, namely, southwestern Iowa and the adjacent sections of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; but the loss of life was very small. The largest of these storms began in Dakota, and described a perfect semicircle—eastward into Minnesota, south and east into Iowa, and then south, southwest and finally due west, crossing the Missouri near the line of Iowa and Missouri. This was so unusual that no explanation could be offered; for a tornado very rarely turns back on its course, as an ocean cyclone does. It was noted as a curious fact that, while this tornado retained its full force at its crossing of the Missouri, the high bluff west of that stream turned it to the upper air—or dissipated it—so it had no effect west of there. In a similar way, appearances indicate that the high bluffs east of the Wabash insure comparative exemption to the dwellers just east of them.

AFTER THE GRINNELL TORNADO.

In conclusion we may repeat that there are three certainties: That tornadoes will continue frequent in all the central section of the United States; that more thorough observations and scientific deductions therefrom will enable us to know when to expect them, and that, with this knowledge generally diffused, we may easily adopt precautions which will reduce the danger to a minimum.

We are indebted for the cuts appearing in this article to Lieut. John P. Finley's book on tornadoes. Lieut. Finley is one of the best of Uncle Sam's indication officers, and has made a closer study of tornadoes than any other living man.

MRS. ASHTON W. DILKE.

A Liberal English Woman Who Is Coming to America.

Mrs. Ashton W. Dilke is coming to America to represent the "advanced women" of England at the international woman's conference at Washington in the closing days of March, and very naturally the Dilke gossip is revived. If any well read American had been asked a few years ago to name the one man in England who was thoroughly "downed" and certain to never rise again, he would at once have named Sir Charles Dilke, for the scandal in which he was involved was no ordinary case of marital infidelity—it was a case which, if the charges were believed, involved utter ruin and expulsion from civilized society. Yet Sir Charles Dilke is coming up again, and the ladies may find pleasure in the fact that his wife is largely the cause, as Mrs. Ashton W. Dilke was formerly the cause of her husband's success. He was a brother of Sir Charles Dilke, yet in the painful complications of the case she was Sir Charles' opponent, as Mrs. Crawford, his accuser, was her sister. With the man her brother-in-law and the woman her sister, Mrs. Ashton Dilke's position was a most trying one; yet she stood by her sister heroically and gave her testimony in open court with a courage and dignity that won for her universal respect.

MRS. ASHTON W. DILKE.

She ranks first among women lecturers in England, and as proprietor of the radical Weekly Despatch wields an immense influence. She is credited with having prevented serious disturbances after the late Trafalgar square affair, by her able, energetic speeches in the radical clubs of London. She delivers regular Sunday lectures on women suffrage, and is an indefatigable worker for the furtherance of her views. Having a fine personal appearance, pleasing delivery and fascinating manners, with a great deal of political experience, she is an effective worker, too, and will be warmly welcomed by the American ladies. Her late husband was a member of parliament, and nearly all her relatives are extremely liberal in politics and religion.

It is the fashion in the highlands of Scotland for heads of clans to call themselves "The Chisholm," "The McNab," and so on.

SOME CURIOUS TABLE MANNERS.

The Good Old Days When Knives and Forks Were Scarce—The Saltcellar.

It was late in the Fourteenth century when the first evidences of art in the shape of silver cups were noticeable on the buffet. The dishes were made of pewter or wood and spoons of bone, wood or silver. Knives were rare, and on that account guests invited to feasts carried their own knives. Forks came in general use still later, and for long years after their introduction they were considered ridiculous affectation and foppery, and not nearly so convenient as one's own fingers. The lord and his lady dipped their fingers into the same plate and sipped their wine from the same cup. Even the queenly Elizabeth, with all her elaborate ideas of etiquette, was content to carry her food to her mouth with her fingers, and at first despised the newly invented forks as unseemly and awkward.

Very gradually the dining hall grew in comfort and splendor. Dishes of gold and silver were made, and so eager were the nobles for them that they would sacrifice anything to possess them. The saltcellar was for a long time the article of highest importance on the board. It was a great affair, and it stood directly in the center of the table; it was the dividing line; the nobles were seated above the salt, the commoners below; hence grew the proverb, "Below the salt." The passing of salt was a ceremonious custom, the guest throwing a pinch over his left shoulder and murmuring a blessing.

The saltcellars were of the most curious device. Sometimes they represented huge animals, sometimes a great, full blown flower, or a long, slender stem, and again they were in shape of a chariot, mounted on four wheels, on which they were easily run down the table.

The first glass cups came from Venice during the Sixteenth century, and from that time on society began to lose many of its primitive ways, and became, in a sense, more refined.

Henry VIII was born with luxurious tastes. He had his banquet chairs supplied with velvet cushions, and about this time the parlor or "talking room," as it was called, was introduced, and here it was that the dames took refuge when the dinner had advanced beyond prudent limits, as it invariably did before the finish.

The cook that presided over the kitchen in those days was not the counterpart of our Nineteenth century Bridget, but he was an artist, and generally a man of quality. The ladies of the household, even those of noble birth, attended to many domestic duties, making the bread, preserving the fruits, while to understand the proper use of starch was considered a great accomplishment.—Tillie May Forney in Woman.

The Fat Man Trick.

Stage tricks and illusions have an undying charm even when the veil of mystery is raised. It was the celebrated family of Ravels that invented the fat man trick, and now we have an exposition of the manner in which that seeming marvel was accomplished. One of the actors in the pantomime sits at a table and ravenously eats dish after dish of food that a servant brings on to him. Presently the man, who like most ravenous eaters was rather thin and scrawny, begins to grow plump. His clothes fit him snugly. His waistcoat steadily swells out under the very eyes of the audience.

All the while he is eating like a sausage machine. In a few minutes he has grown to be a giant eight or nine feet tall, and with the proportions of an inflated balloon. The food eaten is all "property food," made of tissue paper, that the actor chews up into little balls and takes out of his mouth when occasion offers. His clothes are all of rubber and made to fit air tight around the wrists and neck. In sitting down he puts the heel of one boot over a little trap in the stage. An assistant below immediately couples a tube running from a bellows to a hole in the boot heel. Then he blows him up. By the time that the suit has grown so big that the inhabitant has to have a lantern to move around in it, the wind supply is cut off and the boot heel is plugged up. Then, by an ingenious arrangement of springs under the actor's feet the height is acquired.—Detroit Free Press.

The Legion's Iron Discipline.

Many desertions continue to take place from the French army in Tonkin. All the deserters who are recaptured are shot without compunction. Lately eighteen soldiers of the Foreign legion ran away from Southay with a lot of arms and accouterments. They were caught in the mountain defiles after a chase which lasted a considerable time, and the eighteen were condemned to be shot at once. It is said that when the men were drawn up in single file in front of their graves the adjutant who was in charge of the firing party cried out with an oath, on seeing some of the doomed men fall slightly out of their alignment, "Can't you fellows keep your dressing better than that? Eyes right! Dress!" No sooner was the command given than the prisoners with parade like punctuality straightened themselves up and obeyed as if they were on the drill ground or at a review. Then the fatal command was given, and the eighteen men went down before the terrible volley. The adjutant's words—if they were ever uttered, and it is probable that they were—show that an iron discipline still prevails in the French Foreign legion.—London Telegraph.

Watering the Bivalves.

"Always have your oysters opened while you wait," said a Brooklyn dealer. "Why? Because, although you pay five cents a quart more for them, you will save money. It is the custom of oyster dealers who open oysters the night before they are sold to throw them into water. An oyster will absorb about one-third its weight in water, and so the purchaser pays one-third of his money for water, which he can add to the oysters himself if he wants his bivalves watered."—New York Evening Sun.

Utilizing Apple Pomace.

Apple pomace was once thrown away at all the great cider mills, as it was thought to possess no value as food or manure. It is now sold to be used for both purposes. Not a few dairymen pay good prices for it to feed to milk cows.—Chicago Times.